



FOCUS

SPRING 2011

REPORT FROM CITY HALL

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This issue of FOCUS, the first since the September 9th explosion and fire, contains information regarding the rescue and recovery efforts, as well as other items of City business. The immediate site of the explosion remains restricted for safety considerations as the City develops plans and schedules to reconstruct the sidewalks and roadways this summer.

Support from Around the World

Hundreds of cards, letters, posters, quilts and more were sent from around the world to the City of San Bruno in the aftermath of the September 9, 2010 gas explosion and fire. Many of these items are on display in San Bruno's City Hall. The City thanks the donors for their thoughts, prayers and support.



To help extinguish the 6-alarm blaze, over 500 fire personnel from 42 fire agencies responded to the scene; many from as far away as El Dorado County. In addition to assistance from neighboring agencies, the County Office of Emergency Services and the California Emergency Management Agency, the Aircraft Rescue Firefighting

unit, capable of producing 3,000 gallons of foam suppressant, was sent from San Francisco Airport.

For more information on the Mutual Aid efforts, please read the article on page 2.



California's Mutual Aid System Provides Invaluable Support in San Bruno, California

Below is an excerpt from San Bruno City Manager, Connie Jackson's article that appeared in the February 2011 edition of Western City Magazine, the monthly magazine of the League of California Cities

On the evening of September 9th the City of San Bruno was forever changed when a natural gas pipeline exploded in the Glenview neighborhood. As I looked into the hills, it wasn't clear what had happened, but I immediately knew that our small city's resources would be no match for a disaster of this magnitude. In the coming days and weeks, mobilizing the response resources available through California's Mutual Aid system would prove essential to our response.

The City's first responding engine companies quickly set up an Incident Command post and the Incident Commander appraised the immediate need for massive resources. Our Fire Department's request for assistance eventually reached six alarms and exhausted the capacity of resources in San Mateo County. Through the California Mutual Aid system, fire apparatus and personnel were dispatched from three additional counties in the Bay Area. At the same time, the City's law enforcement mutual aid requested every available law enforcement personnel in San Mateo County to respond to assist with the evacuation of over 1,000 residences in adjacent neighborhoods. In total, more than 400 first responders, including air strike teams from CAL Fire, joined the battle against the inferno.

Those of us already at City Hall immediately activated the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) located in the basement of City Hall and the County activated its EOC to support emergency medical transport and other operations. Both would be critical to supporting field operations and displaced residents for weeks to come. City personnel from all departments reported and rapidly staffed all of the functions outlined in our emergency plan. Personnel from nearby cities, the California Emergency Management Agency, the Red Cross and other agencies from throughout the County flooded in through the night. The EOC became the hub of the coordinated response.

As the incident and the initial recovery progressed, assistance from other cities and agencies became integral to the success of our response to this crisis. With the assistance of Building Inspectors from throughout the region, over 350 homes were inspected by the end of the second day. For over a week, San Bruno was the focus of media attention from around the world. During this time, the advice and 24 hour assistance of responding public information specialists was critical to our ability to manage this attention, to protect the privacy of our residents, and to keep them apprised about the status of their homes and neighborhood.

Some have said that the City's response to this disaster was a textbook example on how to respond in a crisis. While the work of City staff was tremendous, the mutual aid provided by numerous local agencies and the State of California was essential to our response and recovery efforts. The success of the mutual aid response in the wake of the Glenview fire clearly demonstrates the importance of local governments maintaining a strong mutual aid system to ensure capable and competent response when our residents need them the most.

Glenview Fire Recovery Fund Donors

Many individuals, businesses or other entities contributed to the Glenview Fire Recovery Fund. A complete list of the financial donors is posted on the City's website at www.sanbruno.ca.gov. The donations are being distributed to those most heavily impacted by the explosion and fire. In addition, many local stores, restaurants, and non-profit organizations immediately donated canned food and clothing, bottled water, toys for children, toiletry products, and much more. Local service clubs and restaurants cooked meals for those at the evacuation center. As the recovery efforts continue, groups have approached the City to donate furniture, plant trees and repair the playground.

The City of San Bruno thanks all of the donors for their generosity to help our community.

NTSB Hearing on Pipeline Explosion

Seven City of San Bruno elected officials and staff members participated and testified in Washington, D.C. on March 1st, 2nd and 3rd, at a National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) public hearing on the pipeline explosion in San Bruno. Immediately following the September 9th incident, the NTSB initiated an investigation into the cause of the pipeline rupture and resulting explosion. As part of the ongoing investigation, the purpose of the public hearing was to gather factual information and provide an opportunity for the public to obtain information about the investigation. The NTSB granted the City of San Bruno "party status," allowing the City of San Bruno to directly question several government and industry witnesses during the hearing.

On the first day, there was testimony from PG&E executives, supervisors and employees, and the NTSB lead investigator made opening statements about the events surrounding both the incident and the impact on the community of San Bruno. PG&E staff testified on PG&E operations, including control room response, policy regarding automatic shut-off valves and remote control valves, risk management of the pipeline, and maximum allowable operation pressure. Other testimony involved whether the duration of the fire would have been reduced with automatic shut off valves, PG&E's plan ensured the safety of gas transmissions in high consequence areas and if PG&E had a communication plan in place for



coordinating with the City in case of a rupture or explosion.

The second day featured testimony from San Bruno's Fire Chief Dennis Haag, pipeline industry representatives, safety advocates, PG&E staff, and State and Federal regulators.

Haag testified about the Fire Department's knowledge of the location of the pipeline, the enormity of the explosion and ensuing fire, and the City's preparedness for the event. Pipeline safety, the efficacy of the national mapping system, PG&E's regulatory authority to replace new pipeline, and operational risk rounded out the day's testimony.



New and industry wide technology and inspection methods were the main topics on the final day of the hearing. Other topics included control operation room procedures and alarms, pressure increases and the maximum allowable operation pressure. The hearing concluded with the NTSB Chair noting that the NTSB's report is expected to be completed by September 2011.

The hearing was open to the public and was webcast on the NTSB's website. Website archives of the hearings are available for viewing through the end of May at: http://www.ntsb.gov/Events/hearing_sched.htm.



The City's Continuing Role ...

Below are some of the on-going efforts by the City of San Bruno as it continues to aid residents in the recovery process.

- Provide expedited planning and building permit process and assist residents rebuild the neighborhood
- Continue staff liaison program
- Continue disbursements of donations to residents
- Continue advocacy for pipeline safety through participation in ongoing investigations and industry operations review
- On-going work on financial recovery
- Work with residents to rebuild park
- Replant trees along the streets and in the Canyon
- Work with the Long Term Recovery Planning Group on unmet needs and operation of the San Bruno Resources and Recovery Center
- Coordinate with PG&E on emergency response planning

San Bruno Resource and Recovery Center is Now Open!

The San Bruno Resource and Recovery Center is located at 458 San Mateo Avenue. The Center will be managed by the San Bruno Long Term Recovery Group, a collaboration of nonprofits, faith-based organizations, businesses, and government agencies who coordinate information and provide long term recovery resources to individuals affected by the 2010 Glenview Fire. Services offered at the Center include case management, mental health service referrals, disaster preparedness classes, as well as individual or group counseling.

The American Red Cross signed the lease for the facility and the Peninsula Health Care District donated \$100,000 to the Red Cross and City of San Bruno for the Center's rent and improvements. Although the initial lease is for one year, the Center's operation will be extended if needed by residents.

For more information on these resources contact:
(877) 773-7229.

BE WHERE THE ACTION IS . . . Join a Commission!

The City of San Bruno's 10 Citizen Advisory Commissions, Boards and Committees have volunteer members appointed by the City Council to serve four-year terms. There are current vacancies on:

* **Citizens Crime Prevention Committee**

Work with the Police Department to promote citizen awareness of crime prevention to foster goodwill and a safe community. Meets the 2nd Thursday of the month, 7:00 p.m. in City Hall. Contact Liaisons Dermot Downes at ddownes@sanbruno.ca.gov or Tony Perkins at tperkins@sanbruno.ca.gov with questions.

* **Culture & Arts Commission**

Provide guidance and recommendations on promoting and developing culture and art related facilities, projects, programs and events in San Bruno. Meets the 3rd Thursday of the month, 6:30 p.m. in City Hall. Contact Liaison John Alita at jalita@sanbruno.ca.gov with questions.

* **Personnel Board**

Monitor and make recommendations related to the operation of the City's Personnel System to ensure fairness to all applicants. Review hiring results and employee census. Meets the 3rd Monday of the month, 5:30 p.m. in City Hall. Contact Liaison, Tami Yuki at tyuki@sanbruno.ca.gov with questions.

Applications are available by visiting the City Clerk's office in City Hall (567 El Camino Real) or calling (650) 616-7058 or emailing vhasha@sanbruno.ca.gov. You may apply any time. Applications are kept on file for two years. When vacancies occur, applicants will be contacted to confirm continued interest. See vacancy announcements on San Bruno Cable T.V. Channel 1.

DOWNTOWN & TRANSIT CORRIDORS PLAN

Open House – www.planbruno.org

The San Bruno Transit Corridors Plan creates and implements the long-term vision for the appearance, business mix and other aspects of the downtown and surrounding area. If you have an interest in helping plan San Bruno's future, the City strongly encourages you to attend the final community workshop. Informational posters will highlight the main elements of the Plan and City staff will be on hand to explain the Plan, answer questions, and receive your comments and ideas. For information on the time, date, place and other details of the Open House, please visit **www.planbruno.org**.

The Transit Corridors area includes the downtown portion of San Mateo Avenue, Huntington Avenue leading to the BART station, and portions of El Camino Real and San Bruno Avenue. The draft Plan document was completed in 2010 after two years of work by the project steering committee, City staff, and extensive input from the public. The draft Plan can be viewed online at www.planbruno.org. Highlights of the Plan include the following:

HIGH-QUALITY, GREEN DESIGN.

Supports design strategies to promote energy efficiency and high-quality, tasteful building design. Proposes modest building height increases to encourage higher density development near the Caltrain Station to increase transit use and reduce automobile use.

SUSTAINABLE, MIXED USE DEVELOPMENT. Promotes multi-story housing, including affordable and senior housing, over commercial uses to generate vitality and foot traffic. Concentrates commercial uses in the downtown area and near the future Caltrain Station.

SAFE AND INVITING PEDESTRIAN REALM.

Promotes circulation and streetscape improvements, including highly visible crosswalks, sidewalk plantings, engaging sidewalk design, and traffic calming strategies.

LOCAL CHARACTER AND DISTINCTIVE IDENTITY.

Promotes downtown economic vitality, including a gateway and plaza at El Camino Real and parking improvements, as well as new office development in the area immediately north of the Caltrain station.

For more information visit www.planbruno.org, or contact Mark Sullivan, Housing & Redevelopment Manager, at **(650) 616-7053** or email Mark at **msullivan@sanbruno.ca.gov**.

Assistance for our Sister City - Narita, Japan

The City of San Bruno and the City of Narita, Japan formed a Sister City relationship in 1990 to strengthen international relations and promote good will. Since then, hundreds of delegates from each city have traveled across the Pacific to experience the other city's culture and customs.



Last September, just hours after the explosion and fire here in San Bruno, Narita residents and officials were contacting us to check on our safety and soon after they sent us financial support to help us recover. Now it is the people of Japan who are in need and we open our hearts to assist them.

The City of San Bruno has established a special account to accept donations to help Narita recover from the tragic earthquake and tsunami. Donations can be made by mailing checks to Ed Suen, Finance Director, City of San Bruno, 567 El Camino Real, San Bruno, CA 94066. Checks need to be made payable to "The City of San Bruno" with "Narita Relief" written on the Memo line.

Governor's Proposal to Eliminate Local Redevelopment

Governor Brown's State budget proposal includes a plan to eliminate redevelopment agencies statewide by July 1, 2011. The proposal allows redevelopment agencies to make payments on existing contracts, but the remaining redevelopment revenues will be distributed to schools, cities and counties, with no additional funding for redevelopment projects. The balances in redevelopment housing set-aside funds will be shifted to local housing authorities.

San Bruno's Redevelopment Project was established in 1999 and has only recently started to receive enough property tax increment revenues to take on major projects. In ten years, the Agency has many accomplishments, including construction of the San Bruno BART Police Facility, planning for reuse of the former Navy Site and the development of The Crossing. A total of over 1,000 housing units are now in place at The Crossing, including 97 affordable units, with an additional 228 of housing made affordable to low income seniors. Redevelopment funds have also been used for such projects as commercial façade improvements in downtown, El Camino Real landscaped median improvements, rehabilitation of streets, and sidewalk repairs.

The loss of redevelopment tax increment revenue will eliminate the City's main tool to promote development and community revitalization, and to produce safe, attractive and affordable housing for low income families and senior citizens. This comes at a time when the Agency is completing the Transit Corridors Specific Plan, which creates a vision for the transformation of the downtown and commercial corridors around the future Caltrain Grade Separation/New Station project. The Plan envisions multi-story housing over commercial uses with improvements to traffic circulation and station access, a safe and attractive pedestrian environment, a prominent downtown gateway and plaza, as well as public facilities such as utilities upgrades to accommodate the new development and a new public library. Without redevelopment funds, San Bruno's ability to create this vibrant and sustainable district in the heart of the community will be jeopardized. The City will continue to watch this issue closely as the State budget discussions continue. If you are concerned about this issue, please call the offices of the Governor, our local Assemblyman Jerry Hill and State Senator Leland Yee.

Welcome to San Bruno's New City Attorney Marc L. Zafferano

The City Council is pleased to announce the appointment of Marc Zafferano as the City Attorney. Mr. Zafferano began work for the City in February and will represent and advise the City Council and all City officers on all matters of law pertaining to the City. Among the many other high profile efforts currently that Mr. Zafferano will be working on are the recovery efforts following the Glenview fire, Caltrain's grade separation project, and the downtown and transit corridor strategic planning process.



Mr. Zafferano has practiced municipal law since 1987 and has served as Deputy City Attorney for the cities of Belmont, San Carlos, Foster City, Half Moon Bay, and the Town of Woodside. He also spent time as District Counsel to the San Mateo County Harbor District and City Attorney for the City of Belmont. Mr. Zafferano received an undergraduate degree from Stanford University, a law degree from Hastings and has been a member of the California Bar Association since 1983.

THINK GLOBAL, EAT LOCAL



Two long-time San Bruno restaurants recently expanded and a new, fine-dining restaurant opened. Don Pico's Restaurant, located at 451 El Camino Real, expanded into the adjacent restaurant space earlier this year and have remodeled both inside and out. Cleo's Brazilian Steakhouse has moved to a completely renovated 5,000 sq. ft. downtown location at 446 San Mateo Avenue. Welcome

to Jack's Restaurant as they have opened in the brand new restaurant space at the Crossing across the street from Tanforan.

In addition to great food, all three of these restaurants have enough capacity to seat large parties and groups. Remember, you can support San Bruno by eating local. More info about all of San Bruno's dining opportunities is available at <http://sanbruno.ca.gov/restaurants.html>

Farmers' Market is Back

The San Bruno Farmers' Market is back for 2011 and it promises to be better than ever. The Market will be held from 9:00am to 1:00pm each Sunday from May 1st through October 30th on San Mateo Avenue between Jenevein and Sylvan Avenues. Now in its third year, the Market features locally grown fruits and vegetables, baked goods, children's activities and live music.



In addition to the Farmers' Market, the San Bruno Chamber of Commerce is planning a wide variety of other activities to be held on an adjacent block. These activities include the City's flea markets, sidewalk sales, car and motorcycle shows and much more.

For more information on the Farmers' Market, contact the Chamber of Commerce at **(650) 588-8620**.

Community Activities

Egg Hunt and Pancake Breakfast

The 32nd annual Easter Egg Hunt & Pancake Breakfast will be held on Saturday, April 16th in San Bruno City Park. Breakfast will be served from 9:00 - 11:00 am and costs \$5 for adults; \$3 for children under 12 or adults over 65. Beginning at 10:00am, there will be crafts and activities for children. The Egg Hunt will be held at 11:00 am.



Streets Alive

On Sunday, May 1st, experience San Bruno in a new way! Enjoy a leisurely walk from City Park, learn about San Bruno's history along the way, and arrive on San Mateo Avenue for the Grand Opening of the 2011 Farmers Market. The walk will leave City Park at 9:30 am and will join San Mateo County's Streets Alive program; an effort to open streets for healthy activities. There will be many activities and demonstrations and opportunities for the entire community to dance, play and enjoy being active and healthy.

e-Books for Everyone

Would you like to learn about ebooks and ebook readers but don't know where to start? Do you already have an e-reader and want some tips on downloading from the Library's collections? Come to this free one-hour, interactive presentation on the latest in ebook offerings and technology. The presentation will be held at San Bruno City Hall, 567 El Camino Real, Room 115, on Wednesday, April 27th from 7:00 to 8:00 pm. For more information, please contact Assistant Library Director John Alita at **(650) 616-7017** or jalita@sanbruno.ca.gov.

Friends of the Library Book Sale

The next Friends of the Library Book Sale will be held on the Library Patio on Saturday, June 4th from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Looking for more information about Community Services Department events, sign-up for the monthly e-Newsletter at: http://www.sanbruno.ca.gov/parks_main.asp

CITY OF SAN BRUNO
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SAN BRUNO CITY COUNCIL

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Rico E. Medina
Irene O'Connell
- City Manager**
Connie Jackson
- City Clerk**
Carol Bonner
- City Treasurer**
John Marty

Website:
www.sanbruno.ca.gov

We welcome your comments.
Please call Randy Schwartz at
(650) 616-7181, or email him at
rschwartz@sanbruno.ca.gov.

Postal Customer

OPERATION CLEAN SWEEP - MAY 7TH
San Bruno Beautification Task Force

If you're tired of seeing litter in the streets and would like to be part of the solution, join us for **Operation Clean Sweep** on **Saturday, May 7, 2011**, at 9 a.m., Veterans Memorial Recreation Center, San Bruno City Park. Volunteers join together to pick up litter and recycling as well as help with special projects such as painting, planting flowers and drought tolerant plants, and spreading wood chips where needed.

Operation Clean Sweep is a great way to spend the morning with family, friends and neighbors, make new friends and help beautify San Bruno. All volunteers enjoy morning coffee/donuts, an appreciation gift, and lunch provided by Recology San Bruno.

Operation Clean Sweep is a partnership between the City of San Bruno and Recology San Bruno.

For more information, please call the San Bruno Beautification Task Force Hotline at **(650) 616-7145**. To volunteer, register online at **www.sanbruno.ca.gov**.



Frequently Called Numbers
(Area Code 650)

Building Permits	616-7076
Business Taxes & Licenses	616-7083
Cable TV	616-3100
City Clerk	616-7058
City Council	616-7060
City Manager	616-7056
Code Enforcement	616-7074
Finance	616-7080
Fire - Business	616-7096
Graffiti Hotline	616-7141
Human Resources	616-7055
Library	616-7078
Recreation	616-7180
Parks	616-7195
Planning	616-7074
Police - Business	616-7100
Public Works/Corp. Yard	616-7160
Public Works/Engineering	616-7065
Senior Center	616-7150
Streets	616-7161
Utility Billing	616-7086
EMERGENCY	9 1 1